

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting a part made of composite material containing carbon against oxidation at a temperature higher than 1000°C including in the presence of carbon oxidation catalyst or in the presence of moisture, the part presenting residual open internal pores, the method including the steps of providing an impregnation composition containing, in percentage by weight, 20% to 70% of at least one metal phosphate ~~in solution together with~~, 5% to 50% titanium diboride in powder form having a grain size lying in the range 0.1 μ m to 200 μ m, 20% to 50% water and 0% to 40% refractory solid filler other than titanium diboride and impregnating said part in depth with the impregnation composition.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the additional refractory solid filler is selected from silica, aluminum, clays, kaolin, and talc.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the impregnation composition contains at least one metal phosphate selected from aluminum, zinc, and magnesium phosphates.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including a preliminary stage of treating the composite material part by impregnating it with a solution containing a wetting agent, and drying it, so as to confer wettability on the composite material that is increased by the presence of the wetting agent.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including at least one step of applying a solution of at least one metal phosphate without any solid filler, prior to applying the impregnation composition containing at least metal phosphate in solution and titanium diboride.

9. (Withdrawn) A composite material part containing carbon and provided with protection against oxidation that comprises at least one metal phosphate, the part being characterized in that the protection against oxidation also comprises titanium diboride.

10. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 9, characterized in that the protection against oxidation further comprises refractory solid filler.

11. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 9, characterized in that the protection against oxidation presents a higher content of titanium diboride in a portion situated close to a surface of the part than in a portion that is further away deep under the surface of the part.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Withdrawn) A part according to claim 10, characterized in that the protection against oxidation presents a higher content of titanium diboride in a portion situated close to a surface of the part than in a portion that is further away deep under the surface of the part.